

I. AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

~~Please cancel claims 62 and 69.~~

Please amend the claims as follows:

D1
38. (Twice Amended) A method of screening for modulators of a lipopolysaccharide mediated response comprising the steps of:

- a) obtaining a TLR-4 polypeptide;
- b) measuring a lipopolysaccharide mediated response mediated by the TLR-4 polypeptide;
- c) contacting the TLR-4 polypeptide with a putative modulator;
- d) assaying for a change in the lipopolysaccharide mediated response; and
- e) comparing the lipopolysaccharide mediated responses mediated by the TLR-4 polypeptide obtained in steps b) and d) above

wherein a difference in the lipopolysaccharide mediated responses indicates that the putative modulator is a modulator of a lipopolysaccharide mediated response.

D2
40. (Amended) The method of claim 39, wherein the lipopolysaccharide mediated response mediated by the TLR-4 polypeptide is determined by determining the ability of the TLR-4 polypeptide to stimulate transcription of a reporter gene, the reporter gene operatively positioned under control of a nucleic acid segment comprising a promoter from a TLR-4 gene.

D3
52. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 38, wherein said putative modulator is effective in altering the mediation of the lipopolysaccharide mediated response by TLR-4.